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Claims:

1 An alarm for detecting radiation and/or pollutants such as smoke, carbon monoxide or the like having:

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housing means (12,20); and

5 detection circuitry for detecting said radiation and/or pollutants;

wherein said detection circuitry is contained within a cartridge (40) which is mountable in said housing means and detachable therefrom.

2 An alarm according to claim 1 wherein said housing means comprises an upper housing member (12) and a base (20), the upper housing member (12) and the base (20) being adapted to be fitted together.

3 An alarm according to claim 2 wherein the base comprises support means (22) and carrier means (24) slidably mounted on the support means, the carrier means (24) being for seating the cartridge (40) thereon for insertion into the housing means (12,20).

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4 An alarm according to any preceding claim wherein the housing means (12,20) includes first electrical connection means (52) connectable to an external power supply and the cartridge (40) includes second electrical connection means (41) engageable with said first connection means for electrically connecting said cartridge (40) to said power supply thereby to allow said detection means to be powered by said external power supply.

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5 An alarm according to claim 4 wherein the housing means (12,20) further includes cover means (58) movable between first and second positions wherein:

in said first position said cover means restricts physical access to the first connection means and in said second position said cover means allows engagement of said first and second

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connection means.

6 An alarm according to claim 5 wherein said cover means (58) is movable between said first and second positions in response to insertion and removal of said cartridge (40) into and from said housing means (12,20).

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a2 7 An alarm according to any preceding claim wherein the cartridge (40) is provided with a plurality of apertures (46) to allow the passage of said radiation and/or pollutants into the cartridge for detection by said detection means.

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B7 8 An alarm according to claim 7 wherein the cartridge (40) is provided with closure means for closing said apertures, said closing means being means movable between first and second positions wherein:

in said first position said closure means closes said apertures and in said second position said closure means opens said apertures.

15 9 An alarm according to claim 8 wherein said closure means is movable between said first and second positions in response to insertion and removal of said cartridge (40) into and from said housing means.

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a3 10 An alarm according to any preceding claim having control means responsive to the energising and de-energising of the external power supply a preset number of times over a preset time period to apply a reset signal to the alarm, thereby to reset the alarm in the event an accidental triggering thereof.

20 11 An alarm according to any preceding claim and having control means responsive to the energising and de-energising of the external power supply a preset number of times over a preset time period to apply a test signal to the alarm thereby to test the alarm.

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ABSTRACT